

REMARKS

Main claim 21 previously recited the insertion of a sheet of “fabric” material into a mold. The principal reference, Japanese Patent No. 2-283303A, does not insert any fabric material whatsoever in a mold. Instead, the Japanese reference teaches that “foam” strips are placed in an injection mold.

Main claim 21 also previously recited that a shoe upper was independently attached to the integrated fabric-thermoplastic part “at a site remote from the mold”. Instead, as shown in Fig. 3 of the principal reference, the shoe upper is attached to the outsole while the outsole is still “in the mold”, and not remotely therefrom.

To help distinguish over the prior art, applicants have canceled claim 25 and incorporated its subject matter into the main claim 21. Thus, the main claim now emphasizes that the attachment of the upper is non-moldable.

The newly cited secondary reference, Chinese Patent No. 2405451 Y, discloses a shoe sole having a rubber or plastic layer connected to a fabric layer by molding or adhesion. However, there is no teaching that a shoe upper is attached at a site remote from the mold, or that the shoe upper is non-moldably attached to the outsole.

Allowance of claim 21 and its dependent claims 22-24 and 26-32 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 22 and 29 were amended to satisfy the indefiniteness objections. At least some of the dependent claims are believed to be patentable *per se* without having to rely on the features of their parent claim. For example, claim 30 recites an “annular gap” surrounding the integrated part in the outsole. No reference discloses that feature.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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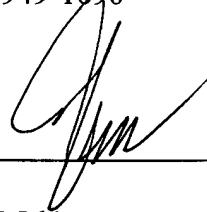
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